

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

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**Ministère de la Santé
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May 30, 2019

HLTC2968IT-2019-57

Dr. Pooya Hemami
President
College of Optometrists of Ontario
65 St. Clair Avenue East
Suite 900
Toronto ON M4T 2Y3

Dear Dr. Hemami:

Our government is committed to streamlining care pathways to make connections easier in the system, improving access to minor and routine care in the community and increasing patient choice in where to obtain health care services.

As was articulated in the 2019 Ontario Budget, we are committed to enabling health professions to use their education and training more effectively by expanding the scope of practice for certain regulated health professionals.

One way that we can achieve our vision is to ensure that optometrists have access to the most up to date and relevant drug treatments and therapies for their clients. The current regulatory framework does not enable this to occur.

Therefore, I am asking the Council of the College of Optometrists of Ontario (College) to amend its drug regulation to reflect categories of drugs from which your members may prescribe. To support this new approach, I am expecting that the College will develop the appropriate infrastructure to support the regulation and that you actively engage with system partners to ensure that they have an opportunity to contribute to this important work.

I would like the College to undertake this work immediately, with a view to submitting a regulation to the ministry for my review no later than December 31, 2019. Ministry staff will reach out to you shortly to work with you and to answer any questions you may have.

Dr. Pooya Hemami

I would like to thank you for your continued contributions to the healthcare system in Ontario, and I look forward to your continued partnership in ensuring that patients who choose optometric services can be assured that they are competent and safe and that they have access to the most up to date treatments and drug therapies.

Sincerely,



Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

- c: Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Patrick Dicerni, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning Division
- Allison Henry, Director, Health Workforce Regulatory Oversight Branch
- Paula Garshowitz, Registrar, College of Optometrists of Ontario
- Dr. Joshua Smith, President, Ontario Association of Optometrists